

REMARKS / ARGUMENTS

In complete response to the Office Action dated December 13, 2004, on the above identified application, reconsideration is respectfully requested. Claims 15 – 47 are pending in this application.

With this amendment, claims 15 – 47 are cancelled. Claims 48 – 77 are added to further define the invention. The Specification is also amended.

Claim Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 112:

Claims 27, 28, 44, and 47 stand rejected to under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter regarded as the invention. With this amendment, claims 27, 28, 44 and 47 are cancelled. The Applicants respectfully contend that due to the aforementioned claim cancellations, the rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 112 is now moot.

Claim Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 102:

Claims 15, 26, 35, and 43 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102 (b) as being anticipated by Wong et al (US 5,986,755). With this amendment, claims 15, 26, 35, and 43 are cancelled. The Applicants respectfully contend that due to the aforementioned claim cancellations, the rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 102 (b) is now moot.

Claim Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 103 (a):

Claims 17, 31, 36, 39, 40, 41, and 42 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103 (a) as being unpatentable over Wong '755 in view of either Frankl (US 1,974,065) or Borchardt et al (US 2,084,987). With this amendment, claims 17, 31, 36, 39, 40, 41, and 42 are cancelled. The Applicants respectfully contend that due to the aforementioned claim cancellations, the rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 103 (a) is now moot.

Claims 16, 21, 22, 32, 33, 34, 37, and 38 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103 (a) as being unpatentable over Wong '755 in view of either Frankl '065 or Borchardt '987 as applied to claims 17, 31, 36, 39, and 40-42 above, and in further view of Voit (US 6,185,960). With this amendment, claims 16, 21, 22, 32, 33, 34, 37, and 38 are cancelled. The Applicants respectfully contend that due to the aforementioned claim cancellations, the rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 103 (a) is now moot.

Claims 23-25, and 46 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103 (a) as being unpatentable over Wong '755 in view of Rathbone (US 5,806,341). With this amendment, claims 23-25, and 46 are cancelled. The Applicants respectfully contend that due to the aforementioned claim cancellations, the rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 103 (a) is now moot.

Claims 29 and 30 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103 (a) as being unpatentable over Wong '755 in view of Buttle (US 5,123,249). With this amendment, claims 29 and 30 are cancelled. The Applicants respectfully contend that due to the aforementioned claim cancellations, the rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 103 (a) is now moot.

CONCLUSION

Accordingly, it is believed that the present application now stands in condition for allowance. Early notice to this effect is earnestly solicited. Should the Examiner believe a telephone call would expedite the prosecution of this application, he is invited to call the undersigned attorney at the number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: April 13, 2005

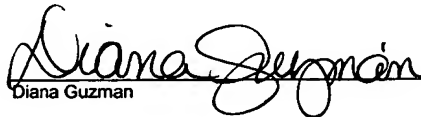


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I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service with sufficient postage as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, on this 13th day of April, 2005.



Diana Guzman